

1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

Regulars, by God!

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 15, 2006

FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello from Forward Operating Base (FOB) FALCON and southern Baghdad! I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying the New Year. Thirty days have passed since the last newsletter and we are one month closer to redeploying to the United States and being reunited with family and friends. We have been exceptionally busy this past month and are completely immersed in our operations. The benefit to such a schedule is that time passes very quickly for us – we find it hard to believe that we have already been gone from Fort Hood for two months!

The task force recently completed the official Transfer of Authority for our Area of Operations (AO) with 3rd Squadron of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. We are now firmly in control of our area and our presence is clearly being felt by the insurgents. We have also been able to stretch our arms a little bit on FOB FALCON as the cavalry just completed their redeployment to Fort Carson. We wish them God's speed and success in the future.

On a typical day in south Baghdad, the Regulars conduct reconnaissance, combat patrols, raids, cordon and searches, meet local leaders, interact with the local population, identify and destroy Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) – roadside bombs – and help train our Iraqi brothers. Additionally, we command and control the task force from our command posts, resupply forward based forces outside of FOB FALCON, maintain and repair our vehicles, are prepared to provide indirect fire in support of troops in contact, and we also guard wherever we have Soldiers living and working.

One of our primary missions is to train the Iraqi Army. Each company interacts with their Iraqi counterparts on a daily basis and conducts missions as a combined team. B Company, in particular, lives with them in our Patrol Bases. We have already developed bonds that transcend the required associations and they have become friends. These friends have fought and died beside us as coalition partners united against the insurgents that wish to destabilize Iraq.

I realize there are questions as to why some of our companies have been attached to other battalions and we have received the attachment of a company from another unit. Commanders attempt to organize forces in the best possible manner to defeat the enemy that we face. On a smaller scale, for example, I take medics from our Headquarters and Headquarters Company and attach them to the infantry and armor companies for operations. This allows me to place the right skills at the place where they can be most effective and beneficial.

The Brigade Commander does the same thing on a larger scale with the companies in the Brigade Combat Team. Although we have trained together in the United States, we are task organized during operations here so that the right skills and weapon systems can be placed at the best place on the battlefield. It takes a trained and disciplined unit to be able to operate away from their parent headquarters so I am very proud of each of our companies that is temporarily

detached from us. After being attached to 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for the past 45 days, I have found one undeniable truth – everyone wants the Regulars on their team. Our Air Assault brothers do not have any tanks or Bradleys assigned to them on a permanent basis so our heavy armor and steel are welcomed by friends and feared by enemies throughout the Brigade area.

As part of the task organization, we are very blessed to have received D Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry as part of the Regulars. I can't tell you how happy I am that we are serving with them and how proud I am of what they have accomplished in a very short time. The DAWGS are from Fort Campbell, Kentucky and are expertly led

Three of our companies – A Company, C Company, and E Company – are temporarily serving with other battalions. Command Sergeant and I get chances to see them frequently and I cannot overstate how well they are performing. A Company continues to serve with the Division's Special Troops Battalion and receives rave reviews for how they are performing their tasks with the Division's detainees and as they secure key personnel and facilities; C Company is now attached to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry and is conducting decisive combat operations to our west; and E Company is clearing important routes and training the Iraqi forces while serving with the 1st Battalion, 75th Cavalry Regiment. All of them are doing great things and representing the Regulars in an outstanding manner.

This month we mourned the loss of two of our own – Specialist William Hayes of C Company and SPC Sergio Mercedes of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry. Both of them passed away on February 5, 2006 and they will be dearly missed. In their memory, we are committed to accomplishing the tasks that have been set before us and are even more dedicated to our overall success. Anything less would diminish what our brothers have given.

In addition to the two Soldiers that we lost this month, several other Regulars have been wounded in action. What I want to highlight to you is that our medical treatment and evacuation system has repeatedly saved lives. I have an incredible amount of faith and confidence in the medical professionals that surround us and our Soldiers are receiving great care whenever they need it. Additionally, the uparmored vehicles that we operate and the body armor that we wear have saved countless lives. We even had one of our Soldiers get shot directly in the middle of the chest – but his body armor deflected the bullet and only left a bruise due to the impact!

Our Soldiers have been fighting the insurgents for the past month and have fought valiantly – we have already seen award recommendations for valor in our unit. There is no doubt in our area that the Regulars are here and we are a force that insurgents must fear. You have every right to be proud of your loved ones and I am humbled to be associated with them—I consider it a privilege to lead them each day.

If you have any concerns or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the Rear Detachment Commander. His duty is to assist our loved ones in the states while we conduct our mission here and he is doing a great job for both us and for you. The Rear Detachment's contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Our commitment to the mission, to the Iraqi people, to the Iraqi Army, and to each other grows stronger each day. Our efforts and success are only possible through your support – I thank you for that and we cannot do it without you. Please keep all of the Regulars in your thoughts and prayers. Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words.

— Lieutenant Colonel Craig A. Osborne (Regular 6)

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello Folks,

After two months in theater, the Regulars are well established in our sectors and have settled into the “routines” of daily life deployed. After what seemed like an eternity, the unit we replaced finally left the FOB and is enroute back to the USA. We wish them a safe journey home and thank them for their service. There is still much work for us to do, not only regarding repairing and maintaining our living and working facilities here on the FOB, but in our battle space as well. As expected, the Regulars have done a tremendous job at handling both so far.

Sometimes, it’s the little things that say a lot. When I walk around the base camp, here and at the other two FOBs where Regulars call home, it’s easy to tell who the Regulars are versus the other Soldiers on the camps. It’s not easy to tell Soldiers from one unit to the next since we are all in the same uniform and sometimes wear the same patches. But, as a general rule, I always see our Regulars in the proper uniform with the proper equipment. They stand tall and their steps are long and purposeful. They salute smartly and are cheerful in their greetings with their heads and eyes looking forward, not toward the ground. They’re quick with a good story and always seem to have one. They look like Soldiers; they act like Soldiers; I am always extremely proud of their professionalism and honored to be part of the team.

Top ten things heard around FOB FALCON this month:

10. “How much longer will we have to wear body armor to the chow hall?”
9. “Hey, have you seen my eyewear?”
8. “What do you mean, ‘we’re moving again’?”
7. “Somebody go find SSG Oliva.”
6. “Are those vehicles STILL stuck in the mud?”
5. “Come see this – I think 1SG Wright is going to kill the XO this time.”
4. “When is 3/3 ACR leaving this place?”
3. “Where’s my mail, %^&*\$#@?”
2. “I have guard duty, again?”
1. “Come on Bear...what’s up with that?”

To all of the families of our Soldiers, friends, and veterans of the regiment – continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Thanks for all of the great packages of support from home. Soldiers ask for so very little. Don’t forget us and don’t let our Nation forget us as we accomplish impossible feats for our country daily. Until next time...

— Command Sergeant Major Richard Beal (Regular 7)

A COMPANY – GATOR

I would like to personally thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, and packages of goodies that you have been sending. Yes, they are starting to arrive, and brighten each Soldier’s day! It’s really great to have those packages to look forward to and to see what things you think we need. You can be assured that nothing will go to waste. Thanks.

We are set in a routine that requires 24 hour security at key locations. Two platoons have got the techniques down and receive much praise from senior-ranking officers and non-commissioned officers for their hard work. Major General Thurman and his staff routinely greet

these Soldiers and have always commended them on a job well done. The third platoon spends the most time of anyone off the FOB and have familiarized themselves with the southern Baghdad area. Headquarters is headquarters. They run the company; and admirably at that.

Below you see three pictures of our Soldiers of the Week. We have started this to say thanks for a job well done to the one Soldier who has made a significant contribution to the company. SGT(P) Fregoso is one of our battle squad leaders and has done exceptionally well since becoming a Gator. She is one of our battle squad leaders from the Division's Special Troops Battalion. PFC Johnson has set a new standard in professionalism, excellence, and aggressive enforcement of the Holding Area's access roster. PFC Johnson is from 1st Platoon. Lastly, SSG Cole helps run the company headquarters section and his actions have led to an increased combat capability within the unit.



SGT Fregoso

PFC Johnson

SSG Cole

All is well with the Gators. There have been just a couple of cuts, a broken finger, and a minor wrist fracture to remind us that we aren't invincible. I ask that you email or write me with your concerns if you have them – I may not hear them from our Soldiers. Take care of yourselves and your families. You are our greatest asset.

—Captain Troy Parrish (Gator 6)

troy.parrish@us.army.mil

This has really been a quick and interesting few weeks in theatre. Our Soldiers are settling in quite well and have flowed into their initial missions seamlessly. The initial batch of mail is finally arriving after a short hiatus – not unusual at the outset of any deployment – and we may see more delays for different reasons as our stay here continues. We will try to anticipate any address changes that may be coming, and give you guys at home a heads up on these changes as soon as we can.

We will start sending our Soldiers on leave shortly. We are trying to align leave blocks with some special occasions (e.g., anniversary, kids' graduations and birthdays, etc.) but not everyone will get what they want. The only thing that's guaranteed is that everyone will get the opportunity to take leave.

Thanks to all for your support of our Soldiers.

– First Sergeant Rohan M. McDermott (Gator 7)

B COMPANY – BEAR

I hope this letter finds you well. The Soldiers of Bravo Company have been very busy over the course of the past several weeks. During the last week of January, we rapidly transitioned with K and L Troops of 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. On February 1st, we assumed control of our area of operations and have been working at a hectic pace ever since.

The focus of our current operations includes securing an Alternate Supply Route and conducting dismounted infantry patrols that enable us to familiarize ourselves with the area and engage the local population. Our goal is to learn their concerns and, at times, gather intelligence. The Soldiers of Bravo Company and our attached armor and scout platoons have worked extremely well together, evidenced by the successful capture of six Anti-Iraqi Force persons in our first twelve days of operations.

While conducting these operations, we have also relocated to our permanent living quarters. We are living in one barracks building that accommodates the entire company, with two Soldiers living in each room. The building is a brick building with shower and restroom trailers adjacent to the building.

Although these accommodations are more than adequate, many of the soldiers in the company – primarily the dismounted infantrymen – have not had much of an opportunity to spend time in these quarters. They have spent the majority of their nights at the company's patrol bases. While the living conditions leave a lot to be desired, they are doing what is necessary to accomplish the mission. I understand the additional sacrifice they are making, as well as the added consequence of having sporadic communications with their families at home. We work each day to improve our living conditions and figure out ways to balance morale and the mission at hand.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the following Soldiers who have been promoted during the month of February.

- CPL Kevin Szczublewski to SGT
- PFC Barker to SPC
- PFC Justin Wagenschutz to SPC
- PFC Russell Werneking to SPC
- PFC Russell Kemery to SPC

I can't thank you enough for your support, thoughts, and prayers for the Soldiers of Bravo Company. They are doing outstanding work and you have every right to be extremely proud of their sacrifices, challenges, and accomplishments.

—Captain Matthew Weber (Bear 6)



Bear Soldiers Work to Improve the Force Protection of their Patrol Base along the Tigris River



CPT Matt Weber Presents a Farm Tractor to a Supportive Farmer in our Area



Bear Soldiers Relax Outside the Barracks on FOB FALCON



SSG Ray on Patrol in a Bradley



1LT Bigda Briefs Soldiers in 1st Platoon Prior to a Mission

C COMPANY – CHAOS

Nearing the end of January, our company was attached to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Now stationed at Forward Operating Base (FOB) STRIKER, the Soldiers of Chaos Company are conducting combat operations with our brothers from 2nd Battalion. FOB STRIKER is located near the Baghdad International Airport.

The battalion is very happy to have us since they are not used to having the massive shock power of an armored force. The Battalion Commander we're attached to has expressed his enthusiasm over having our tanks attached to his battalion and is anxious to use them in future operations. Likewise, our Soldiers are excited at the opportunity to learn from our infantry counterparts. In a few short weeks, we have learned the usefulness of dismounted patrols, effectiveness of air assault infiltrations, and the importance of counter-IED tactics.

This month we lost an influential member of our ranks. SPC William Hayes passed away in the early morning hours of February 5th, 2006. William Hayes was an important member of C Company, 1-22 Infantry. His willingness to perform any task distinguished him as one of the most reliable Soldiers in the Company. Just one week prior, SPC Hayes found a large, hidden IED on a dismounted patrol – his actions saved the lives of many of his platoon members. SPC Hayes's dedication to his platoon and his mission played a key role in the overall success of our Company and the Battalion.

—Captain John Robertson (“Chaos 6”)



C CO Prepares to Leave FOB FALCON for their Mission with 2-502 IN

D COMPANY – DEATH DEALER

It's hard to believe a month has gone by since the last update. The Death Dealers have been very busy throughout the area since the first day we arrived in Southern Baghdad. We completed the transition with Killer Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and have assumed responsibility for an area roughly 70 kilometers in size. You may have already heard the guys

speaking about towns like Hawr Rajab, Adwaniyah, Jubachi and Arab Jabour. These are the major population centers the Dealers will be operating in.

We have established a battle rhythm for the platoons to operate so that we can have a presence in our area at all times. This gives the Soldiers time to prepare for missions, conduct maintenance, conduct patrols, sleep, and have some personal time to unwind. There will always be some last minute operations that will be conducted, but we will try to give the guys time to do the necessary things around our Forward Operating Base (FOB).

We conduct route clearance missions on the roads we travel to clear the areas of explosive devices to protect our Soldiers and the people of the towns. We also conduct mounted and dismounted patrols to meet with the important leaders and to develop intelligence on the enemy operating in our area. Sometimes we stay the night in the town by establishing temporary patrol bases. Every one of our Soldiers are infantryman first...and their MOS second.

We had a rough week when several vehicles became mired in the mud and rough terrain in our area. Several Soldiers spent numerous nights on the roads trying to pull security and recover the vehicles. The maintenance team did an outstanding job in freeing up the vehicles so that we could return them to the FOB to be maintained. 1LT Michaels and SSG Huck led our team and the Dealers denied the enemy victory while destroying an enemy safe house during the recovery mission.

Second Platoon responded to intelligence from a local source and discovered one of the largest caches ever found in our AO. They slowed the enemy's capabilities in our area by destroying the enemy's weapons. Some of our soldiers were key minesweeping team in that operation. This sent a clear message to the local populace and earned the platoon great honors from Major General Thurman and Brigadier General Maffey.

We have had a few close calls so far – but your loved ones are safe. Many Dealers have earned their Combat Action Badges and are awaiting approval for them to be awarded. A few of the Dealers have earned Purple Hearts for their service to their country and we are all in debt to them for their actions. The Dealers continue to set the standard in all that they do and everyone should be proud of their loved ones. That is all for this month. Keep our great Soldiers and this unit in your prayers.

—Captain Jared Rudacille (“Dealer 6”)



A Dealer Soldier interacts with the Local Youth



D CO Leadership on FOB FALCON



2nd Platoon Searches for Buried Caches during a Raid



One of the Many Weapons Caches Found and Destroyed by Dealer

D COMPANY/2-502 INFANTRY – DAWG

Delta Company continues its rock-star-like world tour with our recent attachment to Task Force 1-22. After a brief stint operating in A/2-502's sector, we moved from FOB STRIKER to FOB FALCON. Although we are still a part of 2-502 IN, we now work as part of Task Force 1-22 from 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Hood.

Everyone in 1-22 has been incredibly helpful in receiving us. We even received a medic – SPC Venegas – who is now the platoon medic with 3rd Platoon. Across the board, everyone in 1-22 has bent over backwards to make us feel like we are part of the Regulars family.

FOB FALCON has some amenities that we didn't have at FOB STRIKER. Internet is more readily available, but the majority of it is a pay as you go system. There are limited free internet cafés and they tend to get crowded quickly. We still have the AT&T calling centers that charge "reasonable" rates to call home. The PX here hasn't burned down and has a relatively good selection. The gym is better and less crowded than the one at STRIKER. The DFAC is nicer, aesthetically, and larger.

We relieved 3rd Squadron of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment who are from Fort Carson, CO. Our sector is slightly larger than our previous one. There are three villages in our sector, but there are numerous business along the highway that runs north through our sector to Baghdad. The majority of these businesses are factories and as the Iraqi economy has grown, so have business opportunities. There are flour factories, mattress factories, a bottled oxygen factory, a Nissan dealership, and even a frozen food factory along the highway.

We've begun working with a company from the Iraqi Army in our sector. CPT Nasser, the company commander, is an experienced and professional officer. We've worked with this unit before in our old sector and they are quite proficient. The fact that this unit can work independently is an excellent example of the hard work and perseverance of both the Iraqi people and the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment's military assistance team that has been training them.

We are continuing to send Soldiers home on R&R leave at the rate of about 6 per month. We are trying to ensure that everyone gets R&R leave, but we also have to keep our platoons manned for operations. About half of the company has taken leave so far. Our leave slots should continue through July.

Unfortunately, this letter finds us mourning another of our brothers – we recently lost SPC Sergio Mercedes. SPC Mercedes was a phenomenal Soldier. He and his wife were expecting

their first child in April of this year. SPC Mercedes was an integral part of 4th platoon and he will be sorely missed.

—Captain Jared Crain (“Dawg 6”)



A Dawg Soldier Pulls Security at a Temporary Halt



1LT Clancey and SGT Scott Speak with the Local Population Through an Interpreter



CPT Crain and His Interpreter

E COMPANY – KILLER

Another month has come to a close for the Soldiers of Echo Company here in Iraq. It is hard to believe that almost 2 months have gone by since we said goodbye to our friends and families and began our journey to the Middle East. Our Soldiers have accomplished so much in a relatively short amount of time. They have done so while overcoming the challenges of the Iraqi language, cultural barriers, and the constant challenge of securing many kilometers along a main route and keeping it safe for other Coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel on every day.

Our Soldiers are doing great work and are putting in a lot of effort and many hours to get the mission accomplished. In addition to the partnerships we have formed working with 4 Iraqi Army Companies in our area of operation, we have also been working under 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade, 101st Air Airborne Division. It has been a unique learning experience working alongside with and learning from both Iraqi Army Soldiers and the Soldiers of the 101st.

A few key moments stand out in my mind as I reflect over the recent period. The first is the

promotion of our Company Executive Officer (XO) to Captain. He has worked hard since coming to our company. He has consistently taken care of our Soldiers and personally devoted himself to getting the mission completed to standard while serving as the Assault & Obstacle Platoon Leader and as the company XO since May of 2005. He has deployed this company through numerous field and training exercises, to the National Training Center and finally to FOB Striker, Iraq, where he runs and supervises the Company's Tactical Operations Center (TOC). He ensures that the company's supply systems, communications, and maintenance programs are all working efficiently to support our Soldiers and their missions. He has received a well-earned promotion and will have much success as a future company commander.

The second highlight of this past period is the reenlistment of both SSG Tijerina and SPC Stevenson. They recommitted themselves to continue to serve with their fellow Soldiers and on behalf of our nation.

These are just some examples of the high quality of Soldiers we have in our company who continue taking care of other Soldiers and who continue making all of us and our nation proud.

—Captain Patsky Gomez (“Killer 6”)



Dogpound Prepares to Leave FOB STRIKER on a Mission



SFC Sutton and SFC Williams with their Iraqi Counterparts



LTC Osborne Promotes Joshua Bohannon to Captain



*1LT Rawlings Reenlists SPC Stevenson in the Dimly Lit Al-Faw Palace
in Baghdad*

E COMPANY/4TH SUPPORT BATTALION – ELIMINATOR

I continue to be amazed daily by the effort and dedication of our Eliminator Soldiers as we continue in our logistical support to Task Force 1-22. I have never been more proud of anything in my life than I am to be associated with such fine Americans. Our Soldiers truly understand what they stand for and what they represent. Just this month, SSG Overturf and SGT Sanchez made a commitment to reenlist based on their passion to serve our country.

Over the past thirty days, our Soldiers have continued to build combat power by spending countless hours maintaining and repairing vehicles and weapon systems. On February 1, 2006, we took control of our Area of Operations. Our Soldiers have been very busy ensuring that the Regulars have everything they need.

In particular, we would like to recognize the members of our maintenance platoon for doing an outstanding job while enduring a grueling six day recovery mission in support of Task Force 1-22. No matter what task is presented to the Eliminators, our Soldiers execute to the best of their ability. Whether its guard duty, providing supplies, or providing maintenance, our Soldiers are ready and willing to go where they are needed.

We have had the opportunity to promote several Soldiers in the month of February. The following Soldiers were promoted with an effective date of February 1, 2006.

- SSG Melomontoya, Erik
- SPC Barney, Dean
- SPC Cook, Andrew
- SPC Kruger, Michael
- SPC Turner, Francis
- SPC White, Raynor
- SPC Villalobos, Jorge
- PFC Hale, Travis
- PFC Russel, Travis

Every month (around the 15th), we get a cake from our dining facility in order to wish our Soldiers a Happy Birthday. The following Soldiers' birthdays will be celebrated on the 15th of February:

- SPC Turner, Francis
- SPC Thomas, Dustin
- PFC King, Brandon
- SPC Parys, Peter
- PFC Shearon, Christopher
- PFC Shaneyfelt, Geoffrey
- SGT Magdaleno, Bonifacio
- SPC Anderson, Erick
- SPC Cook, Andrew

We would also like to congratulate SPC Nunez of D CRT and his wife Belinda on the birth of a healthy baby boy.

Our Soldiers have taken on the task of fixing up our new home. SSG Overturf and SFC Howell have taken the time to emplace new walls in order to separate large rooms into smaller offices. This has also allowed us to open up a much needed arms room. We painted the first floor this week and will continue to improve our quality of life.

Although our Soldiers are working around the clock, they are also taking the opportunity to exercise in the gym, utilize the internet café and phone centers, enjoy the Green Bean Coffee Shop, and occasionally pick up a good game of basketball.

—Captain Jennifer McDonough (Eliminator 6)



1LT Yamall Reenlists SSG Overturf



CPT McDonough and SFC Howell Promote SGT Melomontoya to SSG



SSG Johnson Enjoys a Break

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY – HAMMER

Family and Friends of Hammer Company,

Your Soldiers performed magnificently this past month as the battalion assumed responsibility for one of the toughest areas in Iraq. On 1 February, the battalion assumed control over much of the farmland and some of the small villages in southern Baghdad, an area that terrorist networks are attempting to use as a staging ground to launch attacks against coalition forces. Hammer Company has been instrumental in denying the enemy the ability to do that.

The Scout Platoon provides the Personal Security Detachment (PSD) to the battalion commander, serving as his security element as he moves around the battlefield. Additionally small teams of scouts and snipers are attached out to other companies to provide specialized reconnaissance and sniper expertise to locate and target insurgents.

The Mortar Platoon provides the battalion's Quick Reaction Force, which is often required to secure the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) as they render enemy emplaced Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) harmless. The Mortar Platoon and EOD provide safe passage on the roads for the rest of the battalion.

The Medical Platoon provides battalion level care at FOB FALCON by maintaining the Battalion Aid Station, as well providing combat medics in the field. They take great care of us.

The Fire Support Team provides teams to each company to plan and conduct fire support missions and to serve as civil military liaisons between our battalion and the local populace. The Fires and Effects Coordination Cell works in the battalion command post to coordinate the battalion's lethal and non-lethal effects.

The Command Group, Staff, and Headquarters Section continue to write plans, manage logistics, and generally do everything else that is required to keep the battalion functioning, which is no easy task.

Our admiration and thanks go to SGT Perez (S1), SGT Ryno (S3), and SGT Pollock (Headquarters Section) for reenlisting in our Army and to their families for their continued dedicated support.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers who were recently promoted or passed their promotion boards:

- Promoted to Sergeant: SGT Etter (Scouts), SGT Newkirk (Scouts), and SGT Hayes (Fire Support)
- Passed the Staff Sergeant Board: SGT Lyles (Headquarters Section)
- Passed the Sergeant Board: SPC Adkins (S3), SPC Vinson (S4), SPC Sanders (Commo), and SPC England (Scouts)

Happy Anniversary to SPC Keith and his wife Erin who celebrated their ninth anniversary on January 19th.

Our hearts are with you as you continue the difficult task of everyday life at home without us there to help. We admire all of your strength to keep things going. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to defeat a determined enemy in this area. Know that the men of Hammer Company will live true to our motto of “Deeds not Words.”

God Bless You,

—Captain Craig Childs (Hammer 6)



CPT Childs Reenlists SGT Pollock



Members of the Mortar Platoon Pose for a Photo on FOB FALCON



SPC Carpenter, SGT Jordan, and CPL Shaw in the Battalion's Aid Station

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

As we proceed on with the mission here in Iraq I am struck by the awesome nature and majesty of our God. As Psalm 46 says God really is “*an ever present help in times of trouble.*” The divine protection and presence afforded us by God allows us to exude the confidence required to accomplish our tasks and to win with decisive action. No doubt the enemy is out there seeking destruction; but we are firm in our resolve to win since we know the cause of justice and liberty is always right.

The sacrifices we make today will pave the way for our children and our grandchildren to look proudly at the greatness which is our American heritage and help preserve the legendary status of the United States Soldier as a “*guardian of freedom and the American way of life.*” Everyday I am humbled by the mighty commitment of your Soldiers as they bravely seek to “*support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic*” and you can be proud of their actions here.

We thank you and think of you as you motivate and inspire us with your selfless service and great sacrifice back at home. May God bless you and keep you in His steadfast care. Until we meet again...

—Chaplain (Captain) John Hill

KILLER TAKES THE LEAD IN TRAINING IRAQIS

At first glance from a distance, the foot patrol appears no different from the hundreds of patrols conducted daily in Southern Baghdad. Soldiers walk slowly in a sharp formation, rifles at the ready, heads on a swivel, prepared to react to any sign of danger. It is not until the Soldiers move closer that an observer realizes the troops comprising the formation are not American. First, there is the uniform – the brown and tan chocolate chip pattern worn by U.S. troops in the first Gulf War, emblazoned with colorful patches and Arabic names. The weapon carried is the AK-47, not the familiar M4.

For the Soldiers of 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, patrols are one part of a variety of operations undertaken to help secure areas of Southern Baghdad. Now, as part of the increased focus on preparing the Iraqi Army to operate independently of U.S. and Coalition assistance, the Strike Brigade is utilizing the distinct combination of talents and expertise found in the combat engineers of E Company, 1-22 Infantry.

“What we’re seeing here is a military organization that is essentially well prepared in terms of basic Soldiering skills,” said CPT Joshua Bohannon, E Company Executive Officer. “Where our focus will lie is in honing the specific skill sets that are crucial to infantry combat and overseeing the implementation of more advanced tactics that will be successful in this theater.” The task of training and operating alongside of the Iraqi Army Soldiers rests upon a group of combat engineers who hail from the 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Hood Texas. Known as Sappers, the Soldiers of E Company possess a broad area of expertise, and are fully capable of successfully executing mounted and dismounted infantry tactics along with their extensive knowledge of explosives, demolitions and maneuver warfare. In addition to working to help secure main roads in Area of Operations STRIKE, the sappers of E Company are helping the Iraqi Soldiers execute their missions with increased confidence and crisp proficiency.

During the process of assessing 2nd Company's readiness and areas in need of improvement, E Company's sappers encountered a variety of challenges – the largest of which was the language barrier. "It's hard to communicate what you want them to learn, even with a translator," said SPC Jason Wells, an E Company sapper. "Sometimes you just have to use hand signals, but more often than not, we just act out what we want them to see. Sometimes it looks pretty funny, like tactical comedy hour." Though the process has been slow at times, the Sappers are capitalizing on the Iraqi Soldiers' solid base knowledge and eagerness to improve their craft. "They're getting better all the time, and showing a lot of progress," said sapper Robert Stevenson. "They bring a lot of energy to everything we do, and they're focused on playing a larger role in the missions."

The sappers have also felt that their mission is one where it is difficult to quantify the level of success. "We can gauge how well we're doing on number of troops trained and in how many areas they're proficient, but we have to focus also on the "unknown factor," said 1LT Gregory Elko, an E Company platoon leader. "We have to think about, 'will they be able to execute these maneuvers and these skills under fire and when the stakes are extremely high,' so we're trying to make the training and the subsequent operations tough, realistic, and pertinent to what's going on in the area of operations."

Through strong exertion, the sappers of E Company have been able to help the Iraqi troops improve; however, it is not a mission that effort alone can accomplish. "It's definitely a think outside the box type of mission," CPT Bohannon said. "On the one hand we have to focus on the basic blocking and tackling of infantry operations, but we can't ignore the fact that we're here to help them develop their overall ability to conduct full spectrum operations." Though the mission is a difficult one to execute, the importance is not lost on the E Company sappers. "The preparation of the Iraqi Army is paramount to our overall success here in Iraq," said CPT Bohannon. "Ensuring that these Soldiers are ready to take the fight is our final ticket home."

PICTURES FROM AROUND THE AREA...



Our New Battalion Headquarters Building—Complete with Our Sign from Fort Hood



LTC Osborne Meets with the Leadership of an Iraqi Commando Unit



Iraqi Army Forces March in Formation on FOB FALCON



American and Iraqi Soldiers Work Together to Resupply a Forward Patrol Base



COL Ali—the commander of our Iraqi Infantry Battalion



Meeting the People—to Understand their Needs...and to Find the Insurgents



An Armored Bridge Stuck in the Mud After the Road Collapsed due to Rains



Local Children Outside of One of Our Patrol Bases



One of Our Medics Treats the Cuts of a Local Child



Our Iraqi Brothers Patrolling the Al-Rasheed Nahia

HISTORY OF THE 1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY REGIMENT

The 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment was originally constituted on May 3rd, 1861 in the Regular Army as Companies A and I, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry. It organized in May 1865 as Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry.

Companies A and I, 22nd Infantry consolidated on May 4th, 1869 and the consolidated unit was designated as Company A, 22nd Infantry. The 22nd Infantry was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on March 24, 1923. The unit was then inactivated on June 30, 1927 at Fort MacPherson, GA.

The unit reactivated on June 1, 1940 at Fort McClellan, AL before inactivating again at Camp Butner, NC on March 1, 1946 upon conclusion of World War II.

The battalion reactivated on July 15, 1947 at Fort Ord, CA. It reorganized and was redesignated on April 1, 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battle Group, 22nd Infantry and remained assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. It was reorganized and redesignated on October 1, 1963 as the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry. It later inactivated in August of 1984 at Fort Carson, CO.

The unit reactivated in May 1986 at Fort Drum, NY and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light). Relieved from this assignment in February of 1996, the 1st Battalion was reassigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, TX.

Soldiers from the battalion have served in combat in nearly every campaign in our nation's history including the Indian Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq. The men and women of this battalion continue to serve the nation and uphold the standards established by our predecessors.

Regulars, by God! Deeds, Not Words



1ST BATTALION, 22ND INFANTRY MAILING ADDRESS

Soldier's Rank and Name
__ Company/1-22 IN
Unit# 42506
APO AE 09361-0256

REAR DETACHMENT COMMANDER

REAR DETACHMENT NCOIC

Phone (254) 288-2840

The Rear Detachment Office is located in Building
10002 on Battalion Avenue at Ft Hood—across from
Bennett Health Clinic